Amendments to the Claims:

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1-2   (Cancelled)

3.   (Currently Amended) ~~The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as claimed in claim 1,~~ A method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge among a plurality of user terminals comprising the steps of:

originating an internet protocol call using session initiation protocol (SIP) among the plurality of user terminals;

negotiating by the plurality of user terminals a common bearer format among the plurality of user terminals via SIP, wherein said step of negotiating includes the step of finding a least common denominator bearer format among the plurality of user terminals; and

coupling a data input/output of each of the plurality of user terminals to a conference bridge.

4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Currently Amended) ~~The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as claimed in claim 4,~~ A method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge among a plurality of user terminals comprising the steps of:

originating an internet protocol call using session initiation protocol (SIP) among the plurality of user terminals;

negotiating by the plurality of user terminals a common bearer format among the plurality of user terminals via SIP, wherein said step of negotiating further includes the step of determining whether the plurality of user terminals support multiple bearer formats, wherein the step of determining includes the steps of:

negotiating a homogeneous bearer format among the plurality of user terminals which have multiple bearer formats;

determining whether a common bearer format exists among the plurality of user terminals; ~~and~~

canceling the step of coupling the plurality of user terminals; and

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coupling a data input/output of each of the plurality of user terminals to a conference bridge

6.   (Original) The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as claimed in claim 5, wherein there is further included the step of coupling the plurality of user terminals with homogeneous bearer formats.

7.   (Currently Amended) ~~The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as claimed in claim 4, wherein~~ A method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge among a plurality of user terminals comprising the steps of:

originating an internet protocol call using session initiation protocol (SIP) among the plurality of user terminals;

negotiating by the plurality of user terminals a common bearer format among the plurality of user terminals via SIP, wherein said step of negotiating further includes the step of determining whether the plurality of user terminals support multiple bearer formats;

coupling a data input/output of each of the plurality of user terminals to a conference bridge; and

if the plurality of user terminals supports multiple bearer formats, there is further included the steps of:

transmitting by each of said plurality of user terminals in a native bearer format; and

each of said plurality of user terminals receiving a bearer format of others of said plurality of user terminals and converting the received bearer format to the native bearer format for use by each of the plurality of user terminals.

8.   (Currently Amended) ~~The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as claimed in claim 1,~~ A method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge among a plurality of user terminals comprising the steps of:

originating an internet protocol call using session initiation protocol (SIP) among the plurality of user terminals, wherein the step of originating includes the steps of:

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originating an internet call between a first party and a second party of said
plurality of user terminals;

negotiating a common bearer format between the first party and the
second party;

originating an internet call to a third party by the first party;

negotiating a common bearer format between the first party and the third
party; and

repeating the steps of originating, negotiating and coupling between the
first party and another party for each of the plurality of user terminals

negotiating by the plurality of user terminals a common bearer format among the
plurality of user terminals via SIP; and

coupling a data input/output of each of the plurality of user terminals to a
conference bridge.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method for a voice over internet protocol conference
bridge as claimed in claim 1, A method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge
among a plurality of user terminals comprising the steps of:

originating an internet protocol call using session initiation protocol (SIP) among
the plurality of user terminals;

negotiating by the plurality of user terminals a common bearer format among the
plurality of user terminals via SIP;

coupling a data input/output of each of the plurality of user terminals to a
conference bridge, wherein the step of coupling includes the steps of:

receiving by the conference bridge an origination from a first party of the plurality
of user terminals, said origination indicating other parties of the plurality of user terminals to be
coupled for data transfer;

originating by the conference bridge a coupling to each of the other parties of the
plurality of user terminals; and

sending a message to each of the plurality of user terminals establishing a data
connection of the data input/output of each of the plurality of user terminals.

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10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Currently Amended) ~~The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as claimed in claim 10,~~ In a user terminal, a method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge among a plurality of user terminals comprising the steps of:

originating by the user terminal an internet protocol call using session initiation protocol (SIP) among the plurality of user terminals:

negotiating by the user terminal and the plurality of user terminals a common bearer format among the user terminal and the plurality of user terminals via SIP, wherein said step of negotiating includes the step of finding a least common denominator bearer format among the plurality of user terminals: and

requesting by the user terminal a data coupling between the user terminal and the plurality of user terminals via a conference bridge.

12.   (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as claimed in claim 12,~~ In a user terminal, a method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge among a plurality of user terminals comprising the steps of:

originating by the user terminal an internet protocol call using session initiation protocol (SIP) among the plurality of user terminals:

negotiating by the user terminal and the plurality of user terminals a common bearer format among the user terminal and the plurality of user terminals via SIP, wherein said step of negotiating further includes the step of determining whether the plurality of user terminals support multiple bearer formats, wherein the step of determining includes the steps of:

negotiating a homogeneous bearer format among the plurality of user terminals which have multiple bearer formats;

determining whether a common bearer format exists among the plurality of user terminals; ~~and~~

canceling the step of coupling the plurality of user terminals: and

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requesting by the user terminal a data coupling between the user terminal and the plurality of user terminals via a conference bridge.

14.   (Original) The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as claimed in claim 13, wherein there is further included the step of coupling the plurality of user terminals with homogeneous bearer formats.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as claimed in claim 12, wherein~~ In a user terminal, a method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge among a plurality of user terminals comprising the steps of:

originating by the user terminal an internet protocol call using session initiation protocol (SIP) among the plurality of user terminals;

negotiating by the user terminal and the plurality of user terminals a common bearer format among the user terminal and the plurality of user terminals via SIP, wherein said step of negotiating further includes the step of determining whether the plurality of user terminals support multiple bearer formats;

requesting by the user terminal a data coupling between the user terminal and the plurality of user terminals via a conference bridge;

if the plurality of user terminals supports multiple bearer formats, there is further included the steps of:

transmitting by each of said plurality of user terminals in a native bearer format; and

each of said plurality of user terminals receiving a bearer format of others of said plurality of user terminals and converting the received bearer format to the native bearer format for use by the user terminal.

16-20   (Cancelled)

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